

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



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United States Coast Guard

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COMDTINST 1650.5

JAN 23, 2003

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 1650.5

Subj: FIREMAN FIRST CLASS PAUL CLARK BOAT FORCES ENGINEERING AWARD

Ref: (a) Boat Crew Qualification Guide, Volume III - Engineer, COMDTINST M16114.6 (series)
(b) CG Medals and Awards Manual, COMDTINST M1650.25 (series)

1. PURPOSE. This instruction establishes policies, procedures, and standards for the administration of the Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineer Award.
2. ACTION. Area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, commanding officers of headquarters units, assistant commandants for directorates, Chief Counsel, and special staff offices at Headquarters shall ensure that the provisions of this instruction are followed. Internet Release Authorized.
3. DIRECTIVE AFFECTED. None.
4. BACKGROUND. The Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineer award is hereby established to recognize enlisted boat engineers who demonstrate exemplary performance and superior technical, professional, leadership, and seamanship abilities in Coast Guard boat operations and engineering support. The award's namesake, 'Fireman First Class Paul Clark', was honored with the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving as engineer of a landing boat during an assault on and occupation of French Morocco in 1942. When a hostile aircraft strafed his boat with machinegun fire, mortally wounding the bowman and severely injuring the coxswain, Clark quickly assumed control of the craft and immediately withdrew from the beach. He sped to an offshore ship, placed the wounded men aboard and; although his craft was riddled with enemy gunfire, courageously returned to his station at the beach and completed his boat's mission. The Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineer Award winners will hold the distinction for one year. One enlisted member will hold the award.

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No. 140

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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

5. DESCRIPTION.

- a. The award is a large bronze wall plaque with a combination wrench affixed along side of the Boat Forces logo. This plaque will be kept on permanent display at MK "A" School in Yorktown, Virginia, and a duplicate at Coast Guard Headquarters with the name of each recipient and the date of the award. A miniature version of the plaque is presented to the new recipient upon transfer of the award. The award will be presented annually.

6. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

- a. Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineer Award.

(1) To be eligible for the Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineer Award, candidates must:

- (a) Be a Coast Guard enlisted member who is serving on active duty at boat force unit.
- (b) Be certified as engineer, in accordance with directives and guidelines in effect at the time of certification, (reference (a)), on a standard Coast Guard boat and certification must be maintained throughout the entire year of eligibility.
- (c) Must have maintained Good Conduct eligibility, and not received a mark less than 4 in their enlisted evaluations for the entire award year.

(2) The Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineer will be:

- (a) The candidate, who possesses the strongest combination of superior performance and technical, professional, leadership, and seamanship abilities in the boat forces community over the span of the year. Factors that will be considered include:
 - 1. Demonstrated technical skills and expertise
 - 2. Development of other Engineers and Boat Crew
 - 3. Performance on standardization visits
 - 4. Underway time

7. SELECTION PROCESS.

- a. The steps in the selection process are outlined below:

(1) In January each year, Commandant (G-O) promulgates an ALCOAST message soliciting nominations of qualified candidates to be submitted via district commanders.

(2) In February each year, Commandant (G-O) convenes panel with the following membership:

- (a) Representatives from Commandant (G-OCS)

(b) Two representatives from UTB System Center and National Motor Lifeboat School.

(c) Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard

(d) Machinery Technician's Rating Force Manager

(3) Commandant (G-O) submits selection to Commandant (G-C) for approval.

b. The panel shall select an award recipient based on the member's record and amplifying information in the nominees' package. Selection shall be based primarily upon performance and technical, professional, leadership, and seamanship abilities, and adherence to Coast Guard core values.

8. CEREMONY LOCATION. An appropriate ceremony will be held at the Coast Guard MK School in Yorktown, Virginia. Commandant (G-OCS) will pay for travel expenses, for the new recipient including spouses. Commandant (G-O) will serve as the Travel Approving Official for the purposes of the Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineer Ceremony.

9. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS. This policy will be incorporated into the next change of the Coast Guard Medals and Awards Manual, COMDTINST M1650.25 (series), reference (b). Questions should be directed to Commandant (G-OCS) at (202) 267-1313.

10. POLLUTION PREVENTION CONSIDERATIONS. Pollution Prevention considerations were examined in the development of this directive and have been determined not to be applicable.

11. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

DAVID S. BELZ /s/
Assistant Commandant for Operations